

SECRET

13 JUL 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
THOMPSON : Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT : Comments on Soviet Air Show

1. The Soviets achieved a major propaganda success from the recent Aviation Day air show. The world press has given the impression of many Soviet "firsts" and tremendous technological progress in aviation.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition to displaying large numbers of well known operational aircraft, they apparently made an all out effort to show as wide a variety of aircraft as possible by flying some prototype bombers. It is probable that many of these will never be placed in series production. This was also implied by Koslov in his reply to a question by Ambassador Thompson at a Yugoslav reception on 10 July, when he asked Thompson if he had noticed how few examples there were of each. Koslov added that "maybe Khrushchev was right after all" in his earlier statements on the obsolescence of military aircraft. Koslov apparently considered the showing of new aircraft as largely a display of continuing research

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